

REMARKS

Claims 1-33, 36, 37 and 40 are pending in this application with claims 1 and 37 being amended and claims 34, 35, 38 and 39 being cancelled by this response.

Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for the courtesy extended in the telephone interview of March 13, 2003. The discussion was summarized in the Interview Summary and faxed by Examiner Wong to Applicant's Attorney on March 13, 2003.

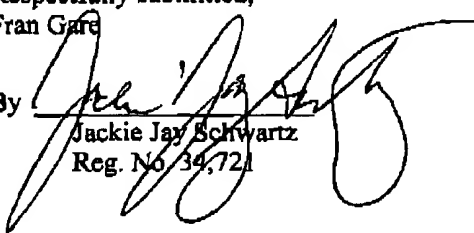
In this interview the Applicant discussed amending the claims to recite xylitol, whey protein between 2% and 40% by weight and at least one of gum or fiber. The Examiner indicated that these claim amendments are fully supported by the specification and would overcome the rejections over the prior art of record. In view of the amendments to claims 1 and 37 it is respectfully submitted that the claims are now in condition for allowance.

In the event there are further issues remaining in any respect the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the address listed below to reach agreement to expedite issuance of this application.

Since the present claims set forth the present invention patentably and distinctly, and are not taught by the cited art either taken alone or in combination, this response is believed to place this case in condition for allowance and the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider the matter, and to allow all of the claims in this case.

Respectfully submitted,
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